TL 3583

OMCT
OPERATING THE SOS-TORTURE NETWORK

ORGANISATION MONDIALE CONTRE LA TORTURE
WORLD ORGANIZATION AGAINST TORTURE
Director Eric Sottas

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Case IDN/TMP 290197

The International Secretariat of OMCT requests your **URGENT** intervention in the following situation in **East Timor.**

Brief description of the situation:

The International Secretariat of OMCT has been informed, by reliable sources of the arrest of ten East Timorese men,arrested in the Viqueque district. OMCT is gravely concern for their physical and psychological integrity.

Nine East Timorese men were captured at 8.45 am on 11 January, 1997, during a military operation conducted by the soldiers of the 407th battalion in the Uatulari sub-district. The authorities have alleged the men were collaborating with the armed Resistance. The information suggests that the nine men have been arbitrarily arrested and may risk of torture and ill-treatment if still in detention. These fears are heightened because their current whereabouts is still unknown.

The details of the nine men, who are all from the village of Besoru, Viqueque District, are as follows: **Miguel Alex Correia**, 22, **Paulino Almeida Pinto**, 34, **Savio de Almeida**, 27, **Paulo Lisboa**, 34, **Abilio de Almeida**, 25, **Antonio Guterres**,26, **Salvador Alves**, 40, **Martin Lopes**, 53, **Cancio Almeida**, 29.

A further report has been received of the recent arrest of **Ponsiano Silvester**, aged 20,Viqueque by members of the Indonesian military and detained at the District Military Headquarters in Viqueque. It is believed he has been accused of setting fire to vehicles belonging to the District Head and the Viqueque Military Commander.

The current whereabouts of Mr **Ponsiano Silvester** are similarly not known and there are grave fears for the physical and psychological integrity of all the detainees. This concern is further heightened given the great number of cases documented by OMCT and other organisations of torture and ill-treatment whilst in custody in East Timor. In all the above arrests, it is unknown whether the families or legal representatives have been given access to the detainees.

The information suggests that the recent arrests are part of a systematic campaign to intimidate the Viqueque population and further suggests that the intimidation is set to increase.

Action requested:
Please write to the Indonesian authorities urging them to:

I. locate the whereabouts of all the above mentioned persons and guarantee the physical and psychological integrity of all people detained, inform their families and ensure access to independant legal representation;

II. order their immediate release if they are detained without valid charges or, if such charges exist, bring them before a competent and impartial tribunal and guarantee their full procedural rights;

III. order an immediate inquiry into the events to ascertain and identify those responsible, bring them to trial and apply the penal / civil or administrative sanction provided by the law in force.

IV. ensure in all circumstances respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms in accordance with national laws and international standards.

Addresses:

MINISTER OF JUSTICE M. Haji Utoyo Usman S.H., Menteri Kehakiman, JI. H.R. Rasuna Said Kav. 6-7, Kuningan, Jakarta Selatan, Indonesia. Fax : + 62 21 314 1625

CHIEF OF NATIONAL POLICE Maj. Gen. (Pol.) Banurusman Atmosumitro, Kapolri, Markas Besar Kepolisian RI, Jl. Trunojoyo 13, Kebayoran Baru, Jakarta Selatan, Indonesia.
Telegrams : National Police Chief, Jakarta, Indonesia

MILITARY COMMANDER REGION IX/UDAYANA(covers East Timor, amongst other areas)
Maj. Gen. H. A. Rivai, Pangdam IX/Udayana, Markas Besar KODAM IX/Udayana, Denpasar, Bali, Indonesia.
Telegram : Pangdam IX/Udayana, Denpasar, Bali, Indonesia.

SECRETARY GENERAL, NATIONAL COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS Prof. Dr. Baharuddin Lopa, Sekretaris Jenderal, Komisi Nasional Hak Azasi Manusia (Komnas HAM), Jl Pemuda No.104 Arawamangun, Jakarta, Indonesia.

Geneva, 29 January 1997

Kindly inform us of any action undertaken quoting the code of this appeal in your reply.